

# **METRO EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES – August 14, 2014**

The regular stated meeting of the Metro East Regional Human Rights Authority (HRA) was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Thursday, August 2014 by Vice-Chairperson, Emil Wilson. Chairperson Thomas Cannady joined the meeting at approximately 8 p.m. although there was still no quorum.

This meeting was held at Cannady & Aubuchon's, 1931 West Main Street, Belleville, IL. 62226.

HRA Members Present: Emil Wilson, Karen Kelly, Marguerite Riley and Thomas Cannady.

HRA Members Absent: Christine Anderson, David Ballone, Margaret Merrill and Beverly Sweatman

Guests: None

Staff Present: Teresa Parks and Cathy Goebel

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice-Chairperson, Emil Wilson, recognized that a quorum was not present. There were no guests requiring introductions.

Vice-Chairperson, Emil Wilson, read the confidentiality statement that indicates that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The Vice-Chairperson asked for any changes in the agenda. There were none.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the stated meeting of the June 12, 2014 were reviewed for changes and there were none. The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Teresa Parks reminded HRA Members to submit mileage forms and ethics training forms. She also reported that interviews were held for the vacant position and the agency is waiting for grades from Central Management Services. Annual HRA statistics were shared with the Metro East region having the second highest caseload.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The following new cases were reviewed for acceptance:

15-070-9001 – Sheltered Care Facility – The facility does not provide adequate measures for safeguarding resident property in that residents frequently enter the rooms of other residents and take items, including money, and then when items are taken there is not investigation or review; instead, the facility reportedly blames the resident stating that the resident should do a better job at putting

things away. A guardian agreed to sign a release but since the complaint was originally presented, the resident asked that the complaint be withdrawn and stating that the staff will know he was the one who complained. Most recently he reported he has had no recent problems with this. HRA Karen Kelly motioned not to accept the complaint for investigation due to the withdrawal request. The motion was seconded by Emil Wilson and carried by the Members present. Thomas Cannady affirmed the vote upon his arrival at the meeting. An additional vote will be secured as per HRA regulations.

15-070-9002 – Mental Health Facility – The court granted an order that a recipient could have a supervised off ground pass but the facility will not issue it. The facility stated that upon his return to court in six months, the team will, at the most, recommend an unsupervised on-grounds pass. According to the complaint, the recipient has not had any recent serious issues that warrant pass restrictions. The rationale given for the restricted pass is that the team “doesn’t trust” the recipient versus anything specific. Karen Kelly made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation; Emil Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was carried by the Members present. Thomas Cannady affirmed the vote upon his arrival at the meeting. The case was accepted using emergency case acceptance protocol as per HRA regulations and will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

15-070-9003 – Mental Health Facility – A recipient was denied the opportunity to purchase and have his own bed linens while other residents are not – An informal call was made to the facility administrator who reported that the facility became concerned about the type of bed linens residents were purchasing with some not being flame retardant. The complaint also stated that a recipient was being taunted by peers but his record inaccurately portrayed him as taunting others. Information was provided to the recipient about how he can object to his record contents. Another complaint stated that a recipient has blood in his stools after surgery for fissures/hemorrhoids but staff allegedly do not acknowledge this medical issue. The complaint also stated that a recipient was allowed by the court to attend a family member’s funeral but the facility would not allow him to attend. Finally, the complaint stated that the facility’s reports to the court on a recipient are inaccurate with statements saying that he threatened his mother, sent a peer to the hospital and destroyed property. Marguerite Riley made a motion to accept for investigation the complaints about lack of medical follow-up and not allowing a recipient to attend a funeral as approved by court; Karen Kelly seconded the motion and the motion was carried by the Members present with Thomas Cannady affirming upon his arrival. The case was accepted using emergency case acceptance protocol as per HRA regulations and will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

15-070-9004 – Vocational Provider – A recipient did not receive adequate services for a recipient with behavioral health needs, thus impacting transportation services to a vocational provider. Marguerite Riley made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation which was seconded by Emil Wilson and carried by the Members present; Thomas Cannady affirmed the motion upon his arrival. The case was accepted via emergency case acceptance protocol as per HRA regulations and will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

The election of officers was tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Authority went into closed session at 7:31 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss case progress, reports of finding and confidential case information. Karen Kelly made the motion to enter closed session, seconded by Emil Wilson and carried by the Members present. Thomas Cannady entered the closed session discussion at approximately 8 p.m. The HRA returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. Closed session discussion included confidential discussion of case site visits, a draft report review and consideration of case closures. A summary of case progress follows.

### **Case Progress Reports:**

14-070-9002 - Wellsprings of Jerseyville - transportation home from ER. A site visit is completed. The case is ready for a report.

14-070-9011 - Memorial - Alton - turned away a patient at emergency room. A site visit has been completed and the case is ready for a report.

14-070-9017 - Behavioral Health Alternatives - denied services. No release received even after two attempts to secure one.

14-070-9018 - FAYCO – arrest. A site visit is complete. Records and other information are being pursued.

14-070-9019 - Alton Mental Health Center - forced treatment. The site visit is done and the case is ready for a report.

14-070-9020 – Alton Mental Health Center – property and visitation. A site visit is to be scheduled.

14-070-9022 - Wellsprings Resources (Alton) - teleconference for assessment. A site visit has been completed and the case is ready for a report.

14-070-9024 - Alton Mental Health Center mail/property. A site visit needs to be scheduled.

14-070-9026 - Alton Mental Health Center - privileges reduces. A site visit has been completed and the case is ready for a report.

14-070-9031 – South Central Transportation – service denial. The site visit has been done and the case is ready for a report.

14-070-9035 – Alton Mental Health Center – property access. A site visit is needed.

14-070-9036 – Alton Mental Health Center – external consult and treatment planning. A site visit is needed.

14-070-9037 – Alton Mental Health Center – searches and physician changes. A site visit is needed.

14-070-9038 – Alton Mental Health Center – property access. A site visit is needed.

### **Reports of Findings**

Case #14-070-9027 – Meridian Health Plan - Thomas Cannady made a motion to approved the draft report of findings with revisions; Karen Kelly seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. A fourth vote will be secured after the meeting as per HRA regulations and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

### **Case Closures**

14-070-9014 – Alton Mental Health Center – Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record. The case was unsubstantiated and did not require a response.

Thomas Cannady seconded and the motion carried by the HRA Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

14-070-9017 – Behavioral Health Alternative – Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case without an investigation due to the lack of a release; Marguerite Riley seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

14-070-9025 – Alton Mental Health Center – Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record. The case was unsubstantiated and did not require a response.

Marguerite Riley seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

14-070-9029 – Alton Mental Health Center - Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case making the findings a part of the public record. The case was unsubstantiated and did not require a response.

Marguerite Riley seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

14-070-9032 – Alton Mental Health Center - Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case without an investigation due to the lack of a release; Thomas Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

14-070-9034 – Touchette Hospital - Emil Wilson made a motion to close the case without an investigation due to the lack of a release; Thomas Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried by the Members present. As per HRA regulations, an additional closure vote will be secured after the meeting and the action will be ratified at the next meeting with a quorum.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:**

The Members discussed upcoming meetings and agreed to cancel the September 11, 2014 meeting as Members present indicated scheduling conflicts. The October 9, 2014 meeting is being postponed until October 23<sup>rd</sup> due to a scheduling conflict for Teresa Parks. The October 23, 2014 meeting will recognize outgoing HRA Members, Marguerite Riley and Emil Wilson whose terms of office expire.

Emil Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. The motion was seconded and carried by the Members present.

Marguerite Riley  
Secretary